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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****PATENT**  
Our Ref. No. 000519

Group Art Unit 3635

Examiner: C. Nguyen

In re application of

Robert E. Reuter, et al.

Serial No. 09/636,359

Filed: August 11, 2000

**HYBRID OFFICE PANEL  
CONSTRUCTION FOR A MODULAR  
OFFICE FURNITURE SYSTEM****DECLARATION OF ROBERT E. REUTER  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131****RECEIVED**

JUN 30 2003

**GROUP 3600**

I, Robert E. Reuter, declare as follows:

1 I, along with Charles Rozier and Wallace Bullwinkle, am an inventor of the Hybrid Office Panel Construction for a Modular Office Furniture System described and claimed in the patent application identified above.

2. Prior to June 7, 1996, we had conceived of the invention of the Hybrid Office Panel Construction for a Modular Office Furniture System as described and claimed in the present application as evidenced by the following:

A. The invention was conceived on or before October, 1995 and we were diligent in further developing the invention by, among other things, preparing drawings of the invention and discussing the invention with my co-inventors.

B. During the month of March 1997, we prepared at least two (2) invention disclosure forms, describing the Hybrid Office Panel Construction and a Multifunctional Crown for a Modular Office Furniture System which we had conceived. Copies of the relevant pages of

disclosure Nos. KNO97002 and KNO97003 dated March 3, 1997, are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3. We were also diligent in filing a patent application for the Hybrid Office Panel Construction for a Modular Office Furniture System as evidenced by the May 28, 1997 filing date of our U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/864,138, now U.S. Patent No. 6,167,664 of which the present application is a continuation.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any patents issuing from the present application.

Date:

13 JUNE 2003



Robert E. Reuter

# Knoll, Inc. INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM

EXPRESS MAIL TO: Patents, 329 Railroad St., East Greenville, Pa. 18041

Disclosure Nbr

**KNO97002**

**DISCLOSURE TITLE**

**Hybrid Panel Construction (Box Beam)**

**Knoll Location**

**East Greenville, Pa.**

**Disclosure Date**

**Mar 3, 1997**

**PRODUCT FAMILY**

**Laurel & Hardy**

**Print Full Name(s):**

**ROBERT EDWARD REUTER**

**S.S.N.**

**579 68 3015**

**ABSTRACT**

*Brief statement of the product or technology improvement:*

**ATTACHED**

Please answer each of the following:

- |                                                                               | YES                                 | NO                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Are all the inventors employees of Knoll, Inc.?                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) Has it been tried experimentally?                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3) Is it now in use?                                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4) If not now in use, is it scheduled for use?                                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5) Has it been offered for sale?                                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6) Will it be offered for sale within the next 6 months?                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7) Has it already been sold in the U.S. or abroad?                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8) Has it been divulged to non-Knoll personnel?                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 9) If divulged, was it in confidence (with signed confidentiality agreement)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

For all 'YES' responses, list the appropriate numbers (1-9) below and provide detailed information including dates, customers, any other related information:

**(2) TRIED EXPERIMENTALLY AT KNOLL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT NOV. 96**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:**

**CONCEPTION** occurs when a person visualizes an invention and the means of accomplishing it. **REDUCTION TO PRACTICE** occurs when the invention is successfully demonstrated to witnesses under actual or simulated conditions of use. **INVENTORS OF RECORD** must have materially contributed to both **CONCEPT** and **REDUCTION TO PRACTICE**.

Early records of events are important. **MAKE SURE ALL ATTACHED SKETCHES and DRAWINGS ARE SIGNED AND DATED BY AN INVENTOR AND WITNESSED BY TWO OTHER PEOPLE (not co-inventors).**

# Knoll, Inc. INVENTION DISCRIPTION

EXPRESS MAIL TO: Patents, 329 Railroad St., East Greenville, Pa. 18041

Disclosure Nbr

**KNO97002**

**DISCLOSURE TITLE**

**Hybrid Panel Construction (B x Beam)**

**Disclosure Date**

**Mar 3, 1997**

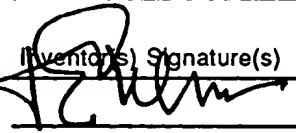
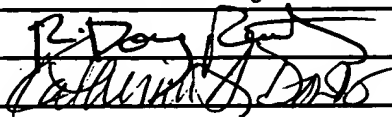
**DISCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION (Typewritten, if possible):**

**KEEP THESE POINTS IN MIND:**

- What problem was solved?
- How have others tried to solve the problem?
- What do you consider the most significant area(S) of the invention?
- Please try to define peculiar technical words or terms of art.
- Try to describe all contemplated embodiments of the invention.

**ATTACHED**

NOTE: All attached sheets should be signed and witnessed.

Inventor(s) Signature(s)	Date of Signature	Two Witnesses' Signatures	Date of Witness Signature	Date Explained To & Understood By Me
	16 MARCH 97		3/16/97 3/16/97	10/96 3.16.97.

# Knoll, Inc. INVENTOR INFORMATION

EXPRESS MAIL TO: Patents, 329 Railroad St., East Greenville, Pa. 18041

Disclosure Nbr

**KNO97002**

**DISCLOSURE TITLE**

Hybrid Panel Construction (Box Beam)

Disclosure Date

Mar 3, 1997

The date on which the invention first occurred to inventor(s) is MAY 1995

List records of early development of invention such as figuring book number and page, notebooks, etc.	Location and date of record.
SEVERAL DATED + SIGNED SKETCHES BEGINNING 20 MAY 1995	REUTER DESIGN 20 MAY '95 → ON
FULL SIZE SKETCH - SECTION OF WALL CONSTRUCTION	REUTER DESIGN 7-8 OCT '95
FIRST SKETCH OF CURRENT VERSION	SENT TO W. BULLWINCKE AND CARLA VRSANSKY OCT '96

**INVENTOR INFO:**

**INVENTOR INFO:**

**INVENTOR INFO:**

**ROBERT E REUTER**

PRINT First Middle Initial Last

579 68 3015

Social Security Nbr

*[Signature]*

Signature

16 MARCH '97

Date of Signature

(516) 689 1633

Business Phone Nbr

(516) 689 9543

Home Phone Nbr

PRINT First Middle Initial Last

Social Security Nbr

Signature

Date of Signature

( )

Business Phone Nbr

( )

Home Phone Nbr

PRINT First Middle Initial Last

Social Security Nbr

Signature

Date of Signature

( )

Business Phone Nbr

( )

Home Phone Nbr

**HOME ADDRESS:**

**HOME ADDRESS:**

**HOME ADDRESS:**

Box 809

EASTSETAUKET NY 11733

Knoll, Inc. Employee? YES NO

☐
☒

Knoll, Inc. Employee? YES NO

☐
☐

Knoll, Inc. Employee? YES NO

☐
☐

# Knoll, Inc. INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM

EXPRESS MAIL TO: Patents, 329 Railroad St., East Greenville, Pa. 18041

Disclosure Nbr

**KN097003**

**DISCLOSURE TITLE**

Multi-functional Cr wn

**Knoll Location**

East Greenville, Pa.

**Disclosure Date**

Mar 3, 1997

**PRODUCT FAMILY**

Laurel & Hardy

**Print Full Name(s):**

ROBERT EDWARD REUTER

**S.S.N.**

579683015

**ABSTRACT**

Brief statement of the product or technology improvement:

**ATTACHED**

Please answer each of the following:

**YES**

**NO**

1) Are all the inventors employees of Knoll, Inc.?

☐☒

2) Has it been tried experimentally?

☒☐

3) Is it now in use?

☒☐

4) If not now in use, is it scheduled for use?

☐☐

5) Has it been offered for sale?

☐☒

6) Will it be offered for sale within the next 6 months?

☐☒

7) Has it already been sold in the U.S. or abroad?

☐☒

8) Has it been divulged to non-Knoll personnel?

☒☐

9) If divulged, was it in confidence (with signed confidentiality agreement)?

☒☐

For all 'YES' responses, list the appropriate numbers (1-9) below and provide detailed information including dates, customers, any other related information:

**② TRIED EXPERIMENTALLY AT REUTER DESIGN STUDIO NOV'95**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:**

**CONCEPTION** occurs when a person visualizes an invention and the means of accomplishing it. **REDUCTION TO PRACTICE** occurs when the invention is successfully demonstrated to witnesses under actual or simulated conditions of use. **INVENTORS OF RECORD** must have materially contributed to both **CONCEPT** and **REDUCTION TO PRACTICE**.

Early records of events are important. **MAKE SURE ALL ATTACHED SKETCHES and DRAWINGS ARE SIGNED AND DATED BY AN INVENTOR AND WITNESSED BY TWO OTHER PEOPLE (not co-inventors).**

DISCLOSURE TITLE <b>Multi-functional Crown</b>	Disclosure Date <b>Mar 3, 1997</b>
---------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

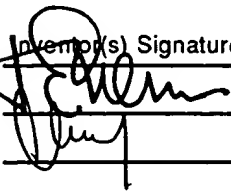

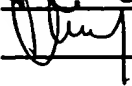
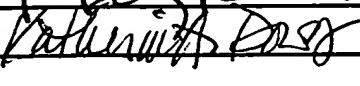
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- How have others tried to solve the problem?
- What do you consider the most significant area(S) of the invention?
- Please try to define peculiar technical words or terms of art.
- Try to describe all contemplated embodiments of the invention.

NOTE: All attached sheets should be signed and witnessed.

Inventor(s) Signature(s)	Date of Signature	Two Witnesses' Signatures	Date of Witness Signature	Date Explained To & Understood By Me
	16 MARCH 97		3/16/97	10/95
	25 March		3.16.97	10/95



# Knoll, Inc. INVENTOR INFORMATION

EXPRESS MAIL TO: Patents, 329 Railroad St., East Greenville, Pa. 18041

Disclosure Nbr

**KNO97003**

DISCLOSURE TITLE

Multi-functional Cr wn

Disclosure Date

Mar 3, 1997

The date on which the invention first occurred to inventor(s) is

~~20 OCTOBER 1995~~

19 Oct 1995

(MK)

List records of early development of invention  
such as figuring book number and page, notebooks, etc.

Location and  
date of record.

SKETCH TRANSMITTED TO C. ROZIER VIA FAX FOR ILLUSTRATION

28 Oct 95 REUTER DESIGN

VARIOUS SKETCHES

28 Oct 95 → REUTER DESIGN

DOUGLAS REUTER SKETCH IN EARLY SCOPE DISCUSSION

8 Nov 95 • DISTRIBUTED TO LHT TEAM

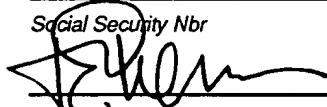
INVENTOR INFO:

ROBERT E. REUTER

PRINT First Middle Initial Last

579 68 3015

Social Security Nbr



Signature

16 MARCH 97

Date of Signature

(516) 689 1633

Business Phone Nbr

(516) 689 9543

Home Phone Nbr

INVENTOR INFO:

CHARLES P. ROZIER JR.

PRINT First Middle Initial Last

577-72-2776

Social Security Nbr



Signature

24 MARCH 97

Date of Signature

(212) 431-7070

Business Phone Nbr

(212) 228-6248

Home Phone Nbr

INVENTOR INFO:

PRINT First Middle Initial Last

Social Security Nbr

Signature

Date of Signature

( )

Business Phone Nbr

( )

Home Phone Nbr

HOME ADDRESS:

BOX 809  
EAST SETAUKET NY 11733

HOME ADDRESS:

40 E. 9th ST #6F  
New York NY 10003

HOME ADDRESS:

Knoll, Inc. Employee? YES NO

☐
☒

Knoll, Inc. Employee? YES NO

☐
☒

Knoll, Inc. Employee? YES NO

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